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THE LILAC



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L*LAC TIME* should be celebrated in every home and made a feature marking a period which can not only be looked forward to with delightful anticipation but recurred to as an event with pleasant memories."



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HE LILAC is so well known and highly valued that it seems almost idle to make an effort to increase its popularity, and yet so many desirable varieties have been added to the collections during the last few years, that lovers of this flower should become acquainted with them and enjoy them.

The lilac is known and grown generally because of its hardiness, richness and freedom of bloom, its delicate fragrance, handsome foliage, good habit, vigor, healthfulness and easy culture.

Grown singly or in masses its effect upon the lawn is always pleasing and satisfactory, and every one who possesses a lilac bush or bushes feels that he has something valuable, that will give a good return regularly every year. The older the bush is, providing it has been taken proper care of, the better the yield of flowers. And this is a desideratum—all things do not improve with age. Oftentimes we see bushes flowering profusely under the most adverse conditions, having been neglected and even abused at times. So we may

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very properly conclude that the lilac is for the masses, those who are without gardeners or whose places may not be the best for gardening purposes, as well as for those who are fortunate enough to own large properties, with ample help to take good care of everything.

In May when the lilac is in flower, admiration is expressed for it on every side; even the most indifferent observer cannot restrain himself from manifesting his appreciation of the flower, praising its beauty and expressing a wish that it might be employed more frequently than it is in garden work. The gardener realizes that in this shrub we have particularly valuable material for gardens and parks, and recently unusual interest has been taken in it. Great collections, embracing hundreds of varieties, have been planted at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, and at Highland Park in Rochester. This year at Highland Park, when the lilacs were at their best, they were inspected by over 30,000 visitors in one day, who had only words of appreciation and admiration for them.

It certainly is very gratifying to note that this flowering shrub is growing in popular estimation.

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One reason for the new interest manifested in the lilac is that during the last ten or fifteen years many beautiful new sorts have been introduced. These varieties come principally from France, being the production of the celebrated horticulturist, Mr. Lemoine. Great credit is due him for the many choice sorts which he has originated and sent out. They are mostly doubles of rare beauty and excellence. Nearly every one is familiar with the single flowered lilac, but not so many know the double flowered. The individual flowers of the double sorts are perfect in their formation and the panicles are of the largest size, and the bushes flower as freely as do those of the singles.

President Grevy is one of the most beautiful, each individual flower is perfectly formed, the panicle is very large, and the color is a light blue. One who sees this charming sort for the first time will be surprised and delighted, and the question will naturally be asked—how was this accomplished? The answer will have to come from Mr. Lemoine.

Among the many varieties he has sent out it is difficult to choose those which can be called the best, each variety having peculiarities which dis-

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tinguish it from the others, and yet, when all are placed together, there is perhaps a similarity or likeness; still there is enough variation to constitute a difference, and certainly they are all marvelously beautiful, and planted separately or in groups, they will be highly ornamental and interesting.

The lilac may be employed advantageously in a variety of ways; for hedges, screens, massing, for shutting out objectionable views and hiding unsightly buildings—or when planted alone, it makes a good bush, it grows rapidly, flowers profusely, has good thick foliage, is free from insects and always looks well.

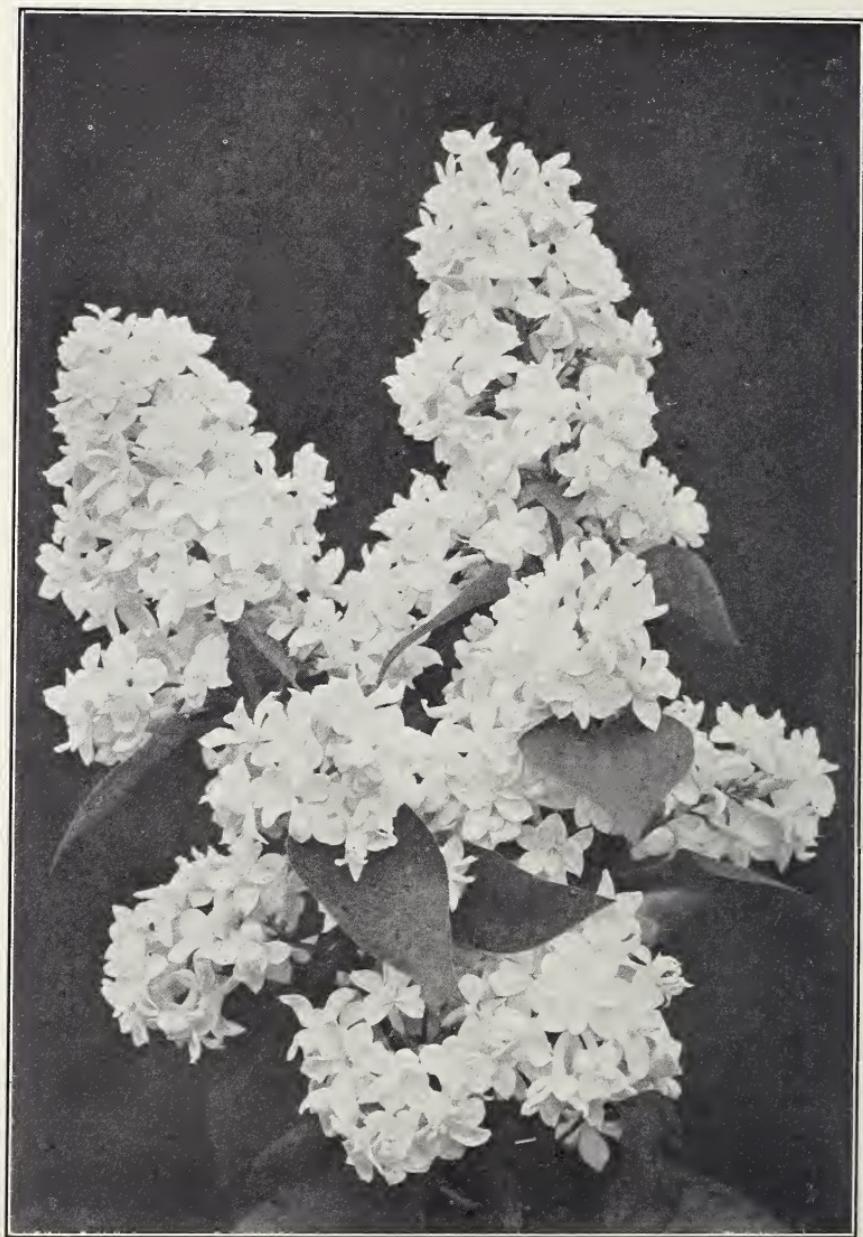
In lilac time we should be able to keep the house continuously decorated with blooms placed in large, deep vases to hold the long stems. Lilac time should be celebrated in every home, and made a feature marking a period which can not only be looked forward to with delightful anticipation, but recurred to as an event with pleasant memories.

Other remarkable double sorts of Lemoine's may be named as follows:

Abel Carriere, very large flower, blue; Belle



MARIE LEGRAYE—SINGLE WHITE



MARIE LEMOINE—DOUBLE WHITE



ONE OF THE MANY DOUBLE PURPLE VARIETIES



PERSIAN LILACS

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de Nancy, delicate satiny rose color; Charles Joly, large panicle, flowers reddish purple; Comte de Kerchove, large, compact panicles—flowers ashy rose color; Madame Abel Chatenay, pure white—this is a gem. Emile Lemoine, beautiful lilac-rose; Louis Henry, violet-rose—distinct shade; Prince de Beauvan, very large panicles—flowers slaty color shaded with violet; Madame Casimir Perier, another double white—beautiful; Alphonse Lavalle, very large panicles, beautiful blue shaded violet; De Humboldt, flowers violet rosy purple; La Tour d'Auvergne, flowers very double and large, violet-purple; Marechal de Bassompierre, rose, velvety bud; President Carnot, pale lilac; Souvenir de L. Thibaut, flowers very large, round, regular, red, with reverse of petals white; Maxime Cornu, lilac-rose. I might enumerate several other doubles, all of them interesting and exceedingly beautiful, but it would make this list too long.

Coming to the singles, there is Princess Alexandra—pure white, with large, long panicles. The plant is very vigorous, grows erect and flowers very freely. It is by far the best

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single white lilac. It originated in Canada and was sent out by Ellwanger & Barry some years ago. *Marie Legraye* is another white, quite well known and much prized. *Cærulea superba*, introduced by Ellwanger & Barry many years ago, holds its own, and may still be regarded as one of the best of its color, which is a beautiful blue.

The *Rouen* Lilac—or *Rothomagensis*, is an old variety which should not be overlooked. It has reddish flowers in large panicles, and the habit of the shrub is singularly graceful. *Lovaniensis* is a beautiful pink sort, and *Jacques Calot* is another of a similar shade—both are distinct and charming. *Ludwig Spæth* is a superb dark sort, as is *Congo*, of a vinous red color. *Gloire de Lorraine*, red in bud, lilac when open; *Rouge de Trianon*, reddish lilac; *Aline Mocquery*, purplish red, very fine.

I could name a number of others of recent introduction which will be highly prized by flower lovers, but they are not yet to be obtained in the nurseries, so that it would not be advisable to refer to them at present.

Lovers of the lilac can have the flowering season considerably extended by planting *villosa*

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and Japonica, the former light purple, and the latter creamy white, but odorless. Japonica attains to the size of a small tree and bears great panicles of flowers in midsummer. Neither has the delicate perfume for which the lilac is so much esteemed, but flowering, as they do, some weeks after the others, they will be found very useful and ornamental.

As I have already stated the lilac improves with age, old bushes being literally covered with blooms. Some varieties are shy bloomers while young, and we occasionally hear of instances where planters have become impatient at the tardy flowering of the plants, while other varieties blossom freely even while young.

The lilac needs little pruning, except that occasionally the knife may be employed to keep the plant in good shape. It is a good plan to remove the faded blooms at the end of the flowering season.

As the lilac starts to grow early in the spring it is best to plant early, and fall planting may also be recommended.

The lilac endures bad treatment but responds quickly to care, and the blooms are greatly im-

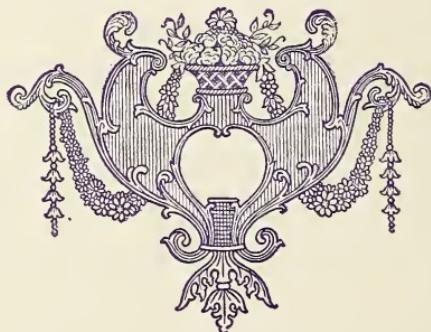
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proved on plants which have received proper attention.

I hope in the near future to submit a supplementary list containing many remarkable kinds which are sure to receive from the public prompt appreciation, when their beauties can be seen and their merits understood.

W. C. BARRY.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.



A LIST OF TESTED VARIETIES

SEE ELLWANGER & BARRY'S GENERAL CATALOGUE
FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND PRICES

Japonica

Josikaea
Josikaea rubra
Ligustrina Pekinensis
Persica
Persica alba
Pubescens
Rothomagensis var. rubra
Rothomagensis var. alba
Villosa

Single Flowered Varieties

Vulgaris. Common Lilac
Alba. Common White Lilac
Alba grandiflora
Aline Mocquery
Cærulea superba
Charles X
Congo
Crampel
De Croncels
Dr. Lindley
Dr. Von Regel
Frau Dammann
Furst Lichtenstein
Gloire de Lorraine
Gloire de Moulins
Jacques Calot
Langius
Louis Van Houtte
Loianiensis
Ludwig Spæth
Marie Legraye
Nana
Negro
Othello
President Massart
Princess Alexandra
Professor Sargent
Rouge de Trianon
Ville de Troyes
Volcan

Double Flowered Varieties

Abel Carriere
Alphonse Lavalle

Double Flowered Varieties (Con.)

Belle de Nancy
Charles Baltet
Charles Joly
Comtesse Horace de Choiseul
Colbert
Comte de Kerchove
Condorcet
De Humboldt
De Jussieu
Dr. Maillot
Dr. Masters
Doyen Keteler
Edouard Andre
Emile Lemoine
Francisque Morel
Georges Bellair
Grand Duc Constantin
Jean Bart
Lamarck
La Tour d'Auvergne
Leon Simon
Linne
Louis Henry
Madame Abel Chatenay
Madame Casimir Perier
Madame Leon Simon
Madame Lemoine
Marc Micheli
Marechal de Bassompierre
Maurice de Vilmorin
M. Maxime Cornu
Michael Buchner
Monument Carnot
Obelisque
Pierre Joigneaux
President Carnot
President Grevy
President Viger
Prince de Beauvan
Rabelais
Senateur Volland
Souvenir de L. Thibaut
Virginite
William Robinson

